



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: October 2, 2017

Agenda Item #: 6g

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Susan Parker, Town Administrator

RE: **Conflicts of Interest Policy**

ATTACH: State of North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §160A-86 & §160A-87
Town of Sunset Beach Code of Ethics
Legal Conflicts of Interest Policy (Draft)

Summary: Town Council directed staff to explore conflict of interest policies from other municipalities. Most communities have adopted code of ethics resolutions and not necessarily a distinct conflict of interest policy. I reviewed the *Model Code of Ethics for North Carolina Local Elected Officials* written by A. Fleming Bell, II and published by the University of North Carolina School of Government.

This document includes an appendix that lists guidelines that translate legal requirements into specific behaviors that board members should avoid and was authored by Frayda S. Bluestein of the UNC School of Government. Staff has taken these guidelines and developed a policy for your review.

Background:

- In 2009, the State of North Carolina Legislature adopted NCGS §160A-86 and §160A-87 requiring that local governing boards adopt a resolution or policy containing a code of ethics to guide the actions of local governing boards in the performance of their duties.
- On October 4, 2010, the Town of Sunset Beach adopted a resolution that included a code of ethics for the Sunset Beach governing body.

Financial Implications: N/A

Legal Implications: Town Attorney has not reviewed Legal Conflict of Interest Policy recommendation prior to inclusion in the Town Council packet.

Recommendation: Move to adopt Legal Conflicts of Interest policy and distribute to all Sunset Beach elected and appointed board members.